



Concerned citizens talk about Village

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

The Cheyenne County Commissioners met with the Good Samaritan Village administrator and a Village board member on Friday at the regular commissioners' meeting.

Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator, and Glenn Isernhagen, Village advisory board member, were concerned about comments made at the March 30 commissioners' meeting. They said they didn't think that, if the county took over the Village, that the fire marshal would make the county fix additional equipment. The fire marshal had already signed off on the nursing home saying that it was in compliance.

Commissioner, Dale Patton, who had made the statement in the prior meeting, still said that he thought that when another person takes over, there could be more regulations to meet. "I've seen it happen," he said.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said that there is asbestos along with the heat and air conditioning system that could pose a problem. How many thousands of dollars are these replacements and repairs

going to cost us? I am looking at the worst-case scenario and hoping for the best.

Mr. Paulsen suggested that he bring out an inspector from the Kansas Department of Aging to talk to the commissioners about their concerns.

In the April 12 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*, the article had stated that the nursing home needed to be "bulldozed."

Mr. Isernhagen said he considered this remark as a "slap in the face." My dad, he said, helped carry bricks to build the place.

It would be nice to have a new facility, Mr. Patton said, but it comes with a big cost. It is your (Mr. Paulsen's and Mr. Isernhagen's) and the residents' tax money that will be subsidizing the nursing home.

The other problem was with the Society profit sharing with county. If the county is going to pay for the expenses of the nursing home and apartments, they felt like there should be some sort of profit sharing. Randy Fitzgerald, the Society's director of operations, had briefly stopped by two weeks ago

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JESSE BAXTER reeled in a big rainbow trout at the kid's fishing contest on Saturday at Keller's Pond. Slim Baxter is helping get the fish out of the water. Cheyenne County

Wildlife sponsored the contest. Look for more photos and results of the contest in next week's Herald.

Herald photo by Francis O'Leary

School receives scholarship money

The St. Francis Board of Education accepted money for scholarships when they met on Thursday.

The board accepted \$1,000 given by Dr. David and Carolyn Huffman in memory of Ray Huffman, who was a football coach and teacher at the St. Francis high school.

Coach Huffman's scholarship began in 2006 with over \$10,000 being contributed by the community. Two seniors are given the award each year at graduation. Coach Huffman

believed strongly in three-sport lettermen and that is a determining criteria for the scholarship.

Coach Huffman was head of the lettermen's club for many years and spent most of his career teaching and coaching in St. Francis.

Dr. Huffman is a retired physician currently living in Colorado Springs. He is the son of Ralph "Red" Huffman, former football coach at Fort Hays State University. The Huffmans send \$1,000 each year in memory of his uncle.

Restaurant celebrates second year

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

On April 14, two years ago, the restaurant was added to the Majestic Service Station. The station and repair shop had been open for a year but, owner, Bud Erskin, said he kept thinking, "St. Francis needs a place that serves good old fashioned food."

Bud started with the kitchen, installing all the needed equipment. He set up tables along the south side of the main room but also remodeled a separate room for additional eating, meetings and parties.

Bud, his wife, Lounie and

daughter, Kary, started by serving breakfast every day except on Wednesday and Thursdays and, then because of demand, Bud began a "self-serve" biscuit and gravy breakfast.

As we found out what the customers wanted, they set the days for serving lunch (they don't serve dinners in the evenings). They now serve breakfast every day and lunch on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. They have Daylight Donuts every day except Sundays and Mondays.

They have also added catering. They take the catered food to locations and also cater to special

occasions held in the restaurant's meeting room. They prepare the food wanted by the customers.

"I cater to my customers," Bud said.

The restaurant is probably best known for its fried chicken. Bud has perfected his recipe and every Monday is fried chicken day. When corn and watermelon are available, they cater fried chicken, corn on the cob and watermelon dinner at a number of occasions. The day of the Cheyenne County Fair Parade, he fries up 80 pounds of chicken (people need to order several days in advance) and they can buy just the chicken, or take

out chicken dinners, or they can be served at the restaurant.

Friday is chicken-fried steak day. The lunch menu on Tuesdays and Sundays varies. People can check the ad in *The Herald* and the *Times* each week for the specials.

"If someone can't come to the restaurant, we fix 'to-go' orders," Kary said.

People can also order sandwiches off the menu including hamburgers, cheeseburgers, swiss-bacon ranch burgers, chicken fried steak sandwich, just to name some and all can be accompanied by

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Local man builds plane; brings it down in safe landing

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

Rick Rogers started flying while he was in high school, about 45 years ago. However, his fascination for flying and planes goes back to when he was 5 years old when he ran to a field where John Grace was spraying. I got a whipping for that, he said.

About that same time, a plane ran out of fuel and landed on Bonny Dam. He and his family went over to see the plane. Little did he know that 55 years later, he would be making an emergency landing, bringing in his plane as safely as the pilot did on Bonny Dam.

Rick bought his first plane, a Maule in 2005. It is what you call a "farmers" plane, he said, because of the big tires that allow landing in pastures and fields. He used it to check his crops. Lots of ranchers, he said, especially those in the sand hills around Haigler, use them to check their cattle.

In 2008 he bought the RV6, which the grandkids named "Papa's Hot Rod." It came from

California and is a fast aerobatic plane. Rick and wife, Linda, have a daughter who lives in Hope and they can make the trip in less than 2 hours which, if driving, would take 5 hours.

But, Rick wanted to build his own plane. He knew several people who had built their planes including Dr. Jim Baker who lives in Goodland.

Rick retired in 2005 and began looking into what it would take to build a plane. By 2008, he had decided that he wanted to build a T-51 Mustang. It is a 3/4-scale model of the P-51 Mustang which is credited for winning World War II, serving as an escort to the bombers during air raids over Germany.

Titan Aircraft in Austinburg, Ohio, fabricates the T-51 Mustang kits. Mr. Rogers drove to Austinburg in early September 2008 and he chose the options, motor and prop he wanted for his plane. In mid-October, he and Linda, drove to Ohio, loaded the kit on a 15-foot trailer and brought her home.

By the end of October, Rick was cutting the aluminum, fitting pieces together and riveting them to the frame. Some kits come with the pieces cut to size and holes for the rivets but, other than the frame and a large piece of each of the wings, the rest of the kit was large pieces of aluminum, lots of rivets and a huge manual of directions including the many different sizes that the aluminum was to be cut.

Mr. Rogers said he spent hours studying the manual. The most complicated part of building the plane, he said, was making all the pieces fit. Dave Roberson, who has an interest in building planes, also helped. The finished weight is only 1,355 pounds.

Mr. Rogers figured it took about 2,000 hours of actually building time and 1,000 hours of studying the manual.

"I am not a mechanic," Mr. Rogers said.

So, in August of 2010, he loaded the plane, now built, on a trailer and moved her to a hanger

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WORKING ON THE LANDING GEAR - Rick Rogers started working on the landing gear after it refused to come down. As of Monday, Rick had it ready to fly again. Below, Mr. Rogers safely landed the plane. Rescue crews were on hand to help if needed.

